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29 September 1979

## MEMORANDUM

Response to DCI Questions

*Can we say that the Soviet brigade in Cuba is not similar to any of the 21 Soviet military advisory missions?*

The Soviet brigade in Cuba is made up of several standard small ground force units which give it an integrated combined arms combat capability. By contrast, the Soviet advisory mission in Cuba is unlike the brigade and is similar to other such missions in many other countries. None of those missions is similar to the Soviet brigade in Cuba.

The Soviet brigade is located in two Soviet-controlled facilities which are arranged to accommodate the unit and its combat equipment. The evidence indicates that Cubans are rarely allowed to enter these facilities. The majority of the brigade's personnel are conscripts and the evidence indicates that its training activities are designed to improve the skills of the individual conscripts and to improve the overall combat capability of the brigade.

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In Cuba and elsewhere, the Soviet military advisory missions are largely composed of officers, warrant officers, and long-service enlisted men. Although headquarters elements of a Soviet military advisory mission may be located in Soviet-controlled facilities, these are generally identifiable as administrative and communications facilities and the majority of the mission's personnel typically are located in small detachments which are co-located with various military units of the host country.

The activities of the military advisory missions are largely focused on training host country military personnel and assisting them with maintaining new modern military equipment.

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*Provide the total number of naval ships, jet aircraft, and tanks that the Soviets have supplied to Cuba and the number that have been supplied since 1975; and the comparison in hardware (APCs, etc.) between what Cuba had in 1962 and today.*

Tables providing the quantities of equipment provided Cuba by the Soviets are attached.

The Task Force does not have a 1962 order-of-battle for the Cuban armed forces. The Cuban army had received small arms and ammunition from Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union. The air force had received a few MIG-15 fighters, but the Cubans, for the most part, were using equipment that was left from the Batista years.

Included also is a copy of the latest assessment of Soviet arms shipments to Cuba.

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Selected Items of Soviet Military  
Equipment Supplied to Cuba

	<u>Ships</u>	<u>Military Aircraft</u>	<u>Tanks</u>
1962-1970	18	291	692
1971 through 1975	5	50	25
After 1975	9	86	50
TOTAL	32	427	767

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## S E C R E T

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Selected Holdings of Equipment  
in Cuban Armed Forces 1979Air Force

Fighters	195
Transports	100
Helicopters	80

Ground Forces

Field Artillery	1,275
Tactical Rockets and Missiles	227
Tanks	720
Armored Personnel Carriers	554
Reconnaissance Vehicles	60
Trucks	12,000

Navy

Submarine	1
Missile Attack Boats	25
Hydrofoil Patrol Boats	2
Submarine Chasers	14
Other	70

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